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Fuel Assistance can help needy families keep warm this winter

Application deadline is Nov. 14

Richmond – Applications for Fuel Assistance from the Virginia Department of Social Services' (VDSS) Energy Assistance Program are being accepted through Friday, Nov. 14, at local departments of social services. Families and individuals must apply through their local department of social services.

"Recent warm temperatures have been a blessing for many, as they may not have had to use heat yet – but, cold weather is coming. This program can help offset costs, as many people face tough budgetary choices when the cold weather hits," said VDSS Commissioner Anthony Conyers Jr.

Fuel Assistance is a supplemental program intended to assist households in meeting their home heating energy needs. To qualify for Fuel Assistance, a one-person household's maximum gross monthly income cannot exceed \$1,127. For a household of four, the maximum gross monthly income level is \$2,297.

"Those living in lower-income households and members of at-risk groups, including the elderly and persons with disabilities, have until Nov. 14 to apply for assistance. We encourage those who may qualify to submit their applications now," Commissioner Conyers urged.

The Energy Assistance Program is funded by the federal Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program block grant. The Fuel Assistance Program was created in 1979 and each year serves approximately 105,000 households across the Commonwealth. For more information on the Energy Assistance Program, visit VDSS' Web site:

<http://www.dss.virginia.gov/benefit/ea/index.html>.

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Interviews are available upon request. For additional story ideas and information, contact Carla Harris, VDSS, (804) 726-7107 or carla.harris@dss.virginia.gov.